

TVI/METRO TV**Outstanding News Operation****WLS-TV, Chicago**

I can certainly tell how hard the staff at WLS works to cover all aspects of breaking news stories, execute interesting and dynamic newscasts and deliver investigative reporting that matters to viewers. Solid work.

Best Spot News*First Place***WLS-TV, Chicago**

"Mercy Hospital Shooting"

This coverage does an amazing job of weaving tragedy with urgency, compassion, compelling stories and information the public should know.

*Second Place***WLS-TV, Chicago**

"Plane Lands on Lake Shore Drive"

This is a day the people who were driving on the interstate will never forget. This piece gave the viewers who weren't there the same experience! From the chopper view to the use of sound, it gave the information people needed to know "right now" to get through their commute. It shows how your newsroom worked together to create a memorable experience for viewers.

Best Sports Report*First Place***WBBM-TV, Chicago**

Jeremy Ross and Don Stanke

"Hold Your Breath"

I want to show this story to every reporter in my newsroom and explain to them that THIS is how they should be thinking when they get the one stop shop story. It means an opportunity to make the viewer a part of the excitement. Even if someone had never heard of Loyola before they would want them to win because it felt like they were friends with the people in the bar-- just hanging out with them watching. I actually had to go back and look because I thought this couldn't have been a day turn. It was. Compelling and fun. You don't take your assignments for granted.

*Second Place***KSDK-TV, St. Louis**

Mike Bush and Scott Suppelsa

"Lesson in Sportsmanship"

TEARS! The way you revealed each piece of this story was beautiful. Who knew hockey could actually be nice? The interviews were compelling, the children were precious and that was made even more so by the nats, the pictures and the writing. Each line in this piece made you think. When I got done watching I cared about these strangers.

Best Light Feature*First Place***WLS-TV, Chicago**

"Sofia Sanchez's Journey"

I was so moved by this story and the way it was told through Sofia's eyes was perfect. Seeing her at home as an active child really showcased her transformation since her surgery. Great work all around.

*Second Place***KSDK-TV, St. Louis**

Mike Bush and Tom Stasiak

"Jerseyville Rodney"

This is a very unique story and it was so well told through the voices of the community members, Rodney, and the creative camera work.

Best Hard News Feature*First Place***WMAQ-TV, Chicago**

"The Mysterious Flight of Taylor Clark"

The video got more shocking and horrifying each time I saw it. There are so many unanswered questions and what answers there are seem incomplete or like they don't add up. This is an important topic. Good for WMAQ for not taking no for an answer.

*Second Place***WBBM-TV, Chicago**

Jeremy Ross and DeAndra Taylor
"You Look Good for a Dead Man"

I cried along with this man as he told his story. The beauty of this piece was allowing him to be the primary voice rather than the reporter. There was also a very creative use of visuals and camera shots. This was executed very well.

Best Series or Documentary*First Place***WLS-TV, Chicago**

"Catholic Church Crisis"

This investigation shows a lot of developments and a lot of new information, but it's presented in an organized and easy-to-understand fashion. It also uses people to tell the story and not just documents. Well done.

*Second Place***WLS-TV, Chicago**

"Marc Winner Convicted"

This was a very interesting look at this kind of trial since victims are not normally willing to speak out. I enjoyed the presentation and how all of the elements came together.

Best Investigative Report*First Place***WMAQ-TV, Chicago**

"You, Too: The Public Cost of Sex Harassment"

What an important series in this day and time. You brought to light a problem in every corner of our community. Compelling interviews exposing a troubling problem.

*Second Place***WLS-TV, Chicago**

"Code Red"

When we are in an emergency situation we have no choice but to blindly trust the people who are helping us. We also have to trust that the people who are hiring are doing their job to keep us safe. Your work is holding people accountable.

Best Digital Presence*First Place***WLS-TV, Chicago**

Your station has a commitment to digital that other stations are likely envious of! Our viewers' world is literally in the palm of their hand and you are enhancing the experience in their community one click at a time.

Best Newswriter*First Place***KSDK-TV, St. Louis**

Mike Bush

You have a way of taking basic information and turning it into something that just makes a person want to keep reading. It's thoughtful, yet clear and concise. I truly enjoyed reading your work.

*Second Place***WBBM-TV, Chicago**

Jeremy Ross

Your writing comes with urgency, heart and a love for this craft. What a treat to both read and watch your Loyloa story. Your love for your craft shows.

Best Reporter*First Place***WBBM-TV, Chicago**

Jeremy Ross

Creative, active, live reporting. People-driven stories. But none of the creativity detracts from the facts. Solid work.

Best Newscast*First Place***WMAQ-TV, Chicago**

Even though I know no one involved this newscast felt personal right off the top. Your team layered what people needed to know, personalization, and even history in a way that made even a stranger to your community care. It's clear that no story in your news cast is a throw-away. Each element in the broadcast is well thought out, visual and viewer friendly.

*Second Place***WLS-TV, Chicago**

This newscast left no element behind. Every single second was carefully thought-out to be something that the viewer wanted. Your coverage of the fallen police commander was compelling. You can see in your newscast the way each part of your newsroom played a role- from the assignment desk via all the video elements, to the editing, writing, reporting and pacing. Every part of the show made for enjoyable watching for your viewer.

TVII/Local TV**Outstanding News Operation****WREX-TV, Rockford**

Loved the show open. Very clean. Clear and concise writing. In-depth reporting. Overall, great news product.

Best Spot News*First Place***WREX-TV, Rockford**

"Dixon High School Shooting"

Very well produced. Solid reporting. This newscast stood out boldly among the rest.

*Second Place***WREX-TV, Rockford**

"Embezzlement Accusations Hit RAEDC"

Top notch coverage. Producer and team did a good job breaking out elements and crafting coverage. Excellent in-depth reporting of a pretty surprising story.

Best Sports Report*First Place***WQAD-TV, Moline**

Elizabeth Wadas and Stephanie Mattan

"Redneck Fishing"

This entry stood out because it showed a popular sport, used great production technique and was just fun to watch. Good job.

*Second Place***WREX-TV, Rockford**

Derek Bayne

"Leader, Coach, Mom: The Story of Misty Opat"

This story was nicely done.

Best Light Feature*First Place***WICS-TV, Springfield**

Dee Dee Gatton

"Saints Flight"

Great job! The shots and editing off the top of the package were attention grabbing. I was immediately intrigued. Your writing was clear and concise. Great use of nats. Your variety of shots and framing were spot on. Great stand-up. Overall, I thought this story was informational but also interesting and fun to watch.

*Second Place***WEEK-TV (NBC), East Peoria**

Caitlin Knute and Emily Ogden

"Making It: The Joe Stamm Band"

I really enjoyed this feature story! The tracking, writing and pacing is spot on. The top of the package caught my attention right away. Great shots. Good use of interviews. Overall, great job!

Best Hard News Feature*First Place***WREX-TV, Rockford**

Kristin Crowley, Ale Alvarez and Josh

Morgan

"Candid Conversations"

Kudos to the reporter and photographer for finding a creative and interesting way to tell a story and make it happen under time constraints. Nice photography and editing.

*Second Place***WREX-TV, Rockford**

Taylor Utzig and Josh Morgan

"Avoiding Tragedy"

Reporters' use of an experiment was thought provoking, visual and would certainly have resonated with the key demographic. Lots of viewer value and takeaway here.

Best Series or Documentary*First Place***WREX-TV, Rockford**"Out of the Darkness - Shining a Light
on Domestic Violence"

Wonderful job bringing such a difficult topic to the forefront in a community that is so clearly impacted. Well shot, well developed, well planned and extremely emotional.

*Second Place***WQAD-TV, Moline**

Denise Hnytka and Stephanie Mattan

"Marine Bootcamp"

Fantastic writing, great natural sound - a wonderful series!

Best Investigative Report*First Place***WREX-TV, Rockford**

Kristin Crowley, Audrey Moon and
Mary Sugden

"Bitter Custody Battle Leads to
Violent Altercation"

This is a good example of asking the tough questions to get answers. The story was well told and kept our interest. Great job!

*Second Place***WICS-TV, Springfield**

Rachel Droze

"Overtime Gold Mine"

This is a great example of holding the powerful accountable. Nice job on the research, asking the questions and getting answers.

Best Videography*First Place***WQAD-TV, Moline**

Andy McKay, Jenny Hipskind and
Anthony Panicucci

"Savanna Bridge Implosion"

Felt like I was there as the bridge was being blown up. Great emotional moments caught as they were happening by using multiple cameras and allowing those who witnessed the event to tell their stories.

*Second Place***KWQC-TV, Davenport**

Randy Biery

"Ride the Train"

Great action and shooting that took me back to a childhood dream when we all had model trains in our basements. Video on the train and off the train caught the realism of the display. Fun story.

Best Digital Presence*First Place***WREX-TV, Rockford**

WREX has a great social media presence. The web and their social media pages seemed like they were updated regularly. They have a good variety of content from news to weather and even promotions. They are very active with Facebook Live. Everything looks clean and is easy to navigate.

*Second Place***WICS-TV, Springfield**

A.J. Bailey and Cody King

Really liked the layout of WICS' website. It popped, looks very clean and was easy to navigate. Stories were clear and concise. There's a video section on the site that was up to date and matched articles on the home page.

Best Newswriter*First Place***WREX-TV, Rockford**

Kristin Crowley

Kristen and the WREX team came up with a great way to tell the story of domestic violence victims - just wait outside the courthouse. Enterprising at its best. Her writing is conversational - it grabbed my attention right away. Transition to soundbites were great. Kristin is a very good storyteller.

*Second Place***WEEK-TV (NBC), East Peoria**

Caitlin Knute

Caitlin has very strong writing skills. It was easy to read and follow her story. I was mesmerized by the story of the baby with the broken bones before birth. I HAD to read to end to find out how the story turned out. She hooked me from the beginning and kept me all the way through.

Best Reporter*First Place***WQAD-TV, Moline**

Elizabeth Wadas

Great voice and great command. Descriptive storytelling on a variety of topics. Your redneck fishing tournament story was one of the most fun stories I've seen in quite some time. Beautifully shot, fun and made me feel like I was there.

*Second Place***WREX-TV, Rockford**

Taylor Utzig

Great investigating and great storytelling. Thoroughly enjoyed viewing your work!

Best Newscast*First Place***WEEK-TV (NBC), East Peoria**

Mariah Hart and Lon Lucas

Excellent coverage of a breaking story. Good job remembering to use the drone. Anchor on-scene did a terrific job summing up what was going on - very conversational. Good transition to weather talking about how cold it was in the live shot. Producer did a solid job crafting the newscast. Obvious attention to details. Bravo!

*Second Place***WCCU-TV, Champaign**

Angelique Kaczynski

Outstanding job reporting on a breaking severe weather story. Doug Quick was extremely compelling field anchoring - since he was reporting in his hometown. I felt like he was just talking to me and giving me a heartfelt summary of what was going on. Well done!

Radio I/Metro Radio**Outstanding News Operation****WBBM-AM, Chicago**

Very informative news coverage with good sound bytes to enhance the broadcast.

Best Spot News*First Place***WBBM-AM, Chicago**

"No Mercy"

Immediate coverage of a breaking news event with quick reaction for coverage that included witnesses on the scene.

*Second Place***WBBM-AM, Chicago**

"The Jason Van Dyke Verdict"

Best Sports Report*First Place***WGN-AM, Chicago**

Adam Hoge

"Adam Hoge and The Bears"

It is clear Adam knows his team and his passion for the game comes through in his voice.

*Second Place***WBBM-AM, Chicago**

George Ofman

"Rocky Wirtz"

Best Light Feature

First Place Well told story with a fun sound mix.

Rivet, Chicago

Bob Kessler

"MacArthur Park Turns 50: A Tale of Two Recipes"

Second Place

WGN-AM, Chicago

Andrea Darlas

"A Few Good Women"

Best Hard News Feature

First Place

WBBM-AM, Chicago

Mike Krauser

"Cat Rescue"

Who would think a cat rescue could be hard news, but in this case it works. It's a story about community and caring.

Second Place

WBEZ-FM, Chicago

Miles Bryan and Rob Wildeboer

"State Board Regularly OKs Gun Licenses Despite Police Warnings"

Best Series or Documentary

First Place

Rivet, Chicago

Jesse Betend

"Life After It's Over"

Great informative reporting, heightened by pleas from the mother and the reality of local laws.

Second Place

WGN-AM, Chicago

Dometi Pongo and Ryan Burrow

"From the Mountaintop: The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

Best Use of Sound*First Place***WGN-AM, Chicago**

Ryan Burrow

"Convention in Chaos - 50 years
later"

Wonderful way to illustrate three perspectives on an historical event.

*Second Place***WBEZ-FM, Chicago**

Sarah Karp, Joe DeCeault and Cate
Cahan
"One High School, Two Walkouts"

Best Digital Presence*First Place***WBBM-AM, Chicago**

Superior information, easy access and great layout. It is a very informative news source.

Best Newswriter*First Place***WBBM-AM, Chicago**

Mark Friedman

Clear, concise and engaged writing.

Best Reporter*First Place***WGN-AM, Chicago**

Ryan Burrow

Strong reporting and very clear and informative for the listener.

*Second Place***WBBM-AM, Chicago**

Lisa Fielding



ILLINOIS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS
2018 Winners and Judges' Comments

Best Newscast

First Place

WBBM-AM, Chicago

Strong coverage of breaking news in this newscast.

Second Place

WLS-AM, Chicago

Jennifer Keiper

Radio II/Local Radio**Outstanding News Operation****WGLT-FM, Normal**

A clear winner in an otherwise difficult category to judge.

Best Spot News*First Place***WCNY-AM, Ottawa**

Ethan Kruger

"New Year's Eve Fire Destroys
Downtown Business"

Felt like spot news. Total package made me feel like I was present on the scene.

*Second Place***WILL-AM, Urbana**

Lee Gaines

"Obama Visits U Of I Campus, Urges
Students to Get Out and Vote"

Best Sports Report*First Place***WSIU-FM, Carbondale**

Brad Palmer

"Carbondale Teen Makes MLS Debut"

Good story about a local player making it to the MLS. Nicely told.

*Second Place***WGLT-FM, Normal**

Eric Stock

"Friday Night Lights Out: Football's
Uncertain Future"



Best Light Feature

First Place

WIUM-FM, Macomb

Rich Egger

"The Blind Swine: It's The Cat's
Pajamas"

Excellent storytelling and use of sound. A really fascinating piece.

Second Place

WUIS-FM, Springfield

Rachel Otwell

"A Biker Meet-Up With African-
American Roots"

Best Hard News Feature

First Place

WILL-AM, Urbana

Christine Herman

"Out of Options, Parents of Children
With Mental Illness Trade Custody for
Treatment"

Great reporting on a difficult subject.

Second Place

WIUM-FM, Macomb

Rich Egger

"Dark Days"

Best Series or Documentary

First Place

WILL-AM, Urbana

Christine Herman

"Continuing Mental Health Coverage"

Very good work on an important subject. Thoroughly done.

Second Place

WGLT-FM, Normal

"Skipping School: Illinois' Teacher
Shortage"

Great comprehensive work in a very tough category.

Best Investigative Report*First Place***WGLT-FM, Normal**

Ryan Denham and Mary Cullen
"Police Diverge on Approach to
Speeding Tickets"

Fascinating look at where police set up to catch speeders and where they diverge on handing out tickets. Excellent visuals on the web story too. Well done.

*Second Place***WILL-AM, Urbana**

Lee Gaines
"Illinois Prison System Spent Less
Than \$300 on Books Last Year"

Best Use of Sound*First Place***WIUM-FM, Macomb**

Rich Egger
"The Blind Swine: It's The Cat's
Pajamas"

Excellent piece of radio story telling! Good use of sound to further each "track". Good job.

Second Place

Interesting and well-told story.

WNIJ-FM, DeKalb

Connie Kuntz
"The Beauty and Science of Bird
Banding"

Best Digital Presence*First Place***WVIK-FM, Rock Island**

Nice body of work. Viewer gets a sense of what is happening no matter their social media preference.

*Second Place***WGLT-FM, Normal**

Ryan Denham

Best Newswriter*First Place***WCMY-AM, Ottawa**

Ethan Kruger

Well written, concise stories that give the reader critical information without wasting their time.

*Second Place***WNIJ-FM, DeKalb**

Susan Stephens

Best Reporter*First Place***WGLT-FM, Normal**

Ryan Denham

Impressive work. A lot of very good competitors in this category but Ryan's depth and breadth of stories won out.

*Second Place***WNIJ-FM, DeKalb**

Susan Stephens

Good writer who constructs compelling and interesting stories.
Well done against a very tough field of competitors.

Best Newscast*First Place***WILL-AM, Urbana**

Brian Moline

Brian Moline has a great voice and good pacing. The newscast provided a good mix of news on the day before a critical election. Nicely done.

*Second Place***WGLT-FM, Normal**

Charlie Schlenker